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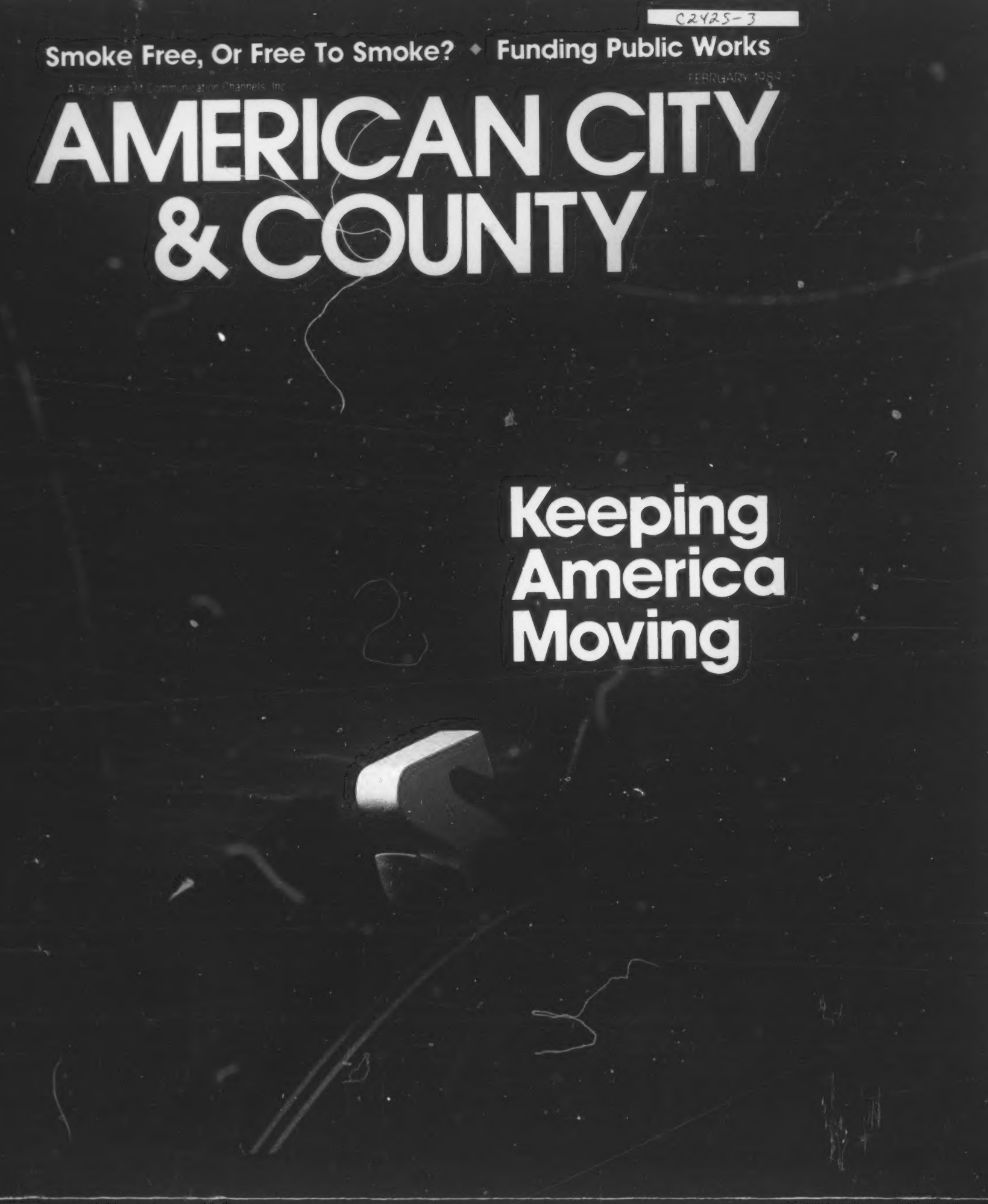
Smoke Free, Or Free To Smoke? ◆ Funding Public Works

A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc

FEBRUARY 1989

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

Keeping America Moving



AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY®

February 1989 Vol. 104, No. 2

COLUMNS

10 **Financial Management** . . . The municipal bond outlook for 1989 and a review of 1988.

14 **Information Technology** . . . How local governments are handling mountains of paperwork.

16 **Inside Washington** . . . Cities and counties are welcoming the federal solid waste Agenda for Action.

ACROSS AMERICA

22 **A Review of Activity From Around the Country**
22 Survey Released on Children's Problems ☐ **22** Report Examines City Aid Level ☐ **24** Air Pollution Study Issued ☐ **24** Speed, Accidents Not Always Related ☐ **24** NACo Program Looks at Local Governments ☐ **24** Award Program Recognizes Volunteers ☐ **24** Private Agreement Saves Brockton Jobs ☐ **26** Florida City Approves Plan ☐ **26** Crime Prevention Program Announced ☐ **26** Alabama Improves Highway Safety ☐ **27** Midwest Infrastructure Facilities Honored ☐ **28** Arizona City Commits to Cultural Development ☐ **28** Barrier Curbs Made Practical ☐ **28** Environmental Urban Task Force Formed ☐ **29** Portland, Ore., Unveils Downtown EID

COVER STORY

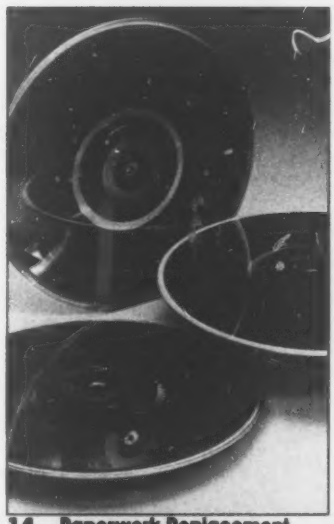
30 **Keeping America Moving: Catch-22 on Wheels**
Unless more money is invested now, America's transportation network will wind up over-used and under-repaired. ☐ **32** Georgia County Initiates Transit Plan ☐ **34** Railroad Project Ends Headache ☐ **36** A New Approach Proves a Capital Idea ☐ **40** The Growing Conflict Over Traffic Signalization ☐ **41** Middlesex County Looks to Traffic Management

FINANCING PUBLIC WORKS

44 **Finding New Ways to Fund Public Works**
The American Public Works Association documents the ways cities and counties are grasping innovative funding techniques. ☐ **46** EPA Emphasizes Partnerships ☐ **48** Our 80th Year: Natchez Builds Factory With Bond Issue ☐ **49** City Gets Traffic Funds

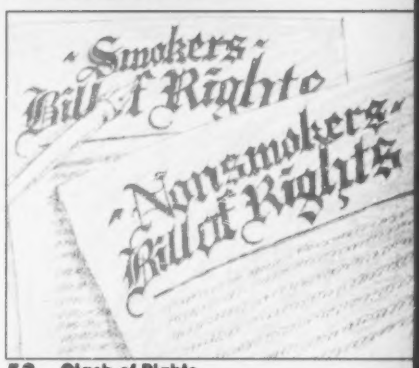
SPECIAL REPORT

53 **Smoke Free or Free to Smoke?**
Cities and counties face many tough decisions when they decide to regulate smoking, but hundreds of ordinances are on the books and many more are being debated in local forums.



14 Paperwork Replacement

36 A Capital Idea



53 Clash of Rights

DEPARTMENTS

4 Editor's View
8 Calendar
20 Resource Recovery
56 Services & Contracts
57 Buyer's Index
58 Newsmakers
59 Product Review
60 Professional Directory
64 Classified
68 Municipal Cost Indexes

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EDITOR'S VIEW

Goddard

Holland

Glisson

Stewart

Fox

Introducing Our Editorial Advisers

Five of the nation's top government leaders have agreed to serve two-year terms on the Editorial Advisory Board for *American City & County* magazine. They join a prestigious panel that guides this publication and helps us formulate editorial policy.

We are grateful for their service, recognizing they are all very busy, and are proud they hold this magazine in such high regard they want to be affiliated with it.

The five who are joining us include the presidents of the National League of Cities (NLC) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the past president of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), a vice president of the National Association of Counties and a longtime county manager who served as vice president and in other positions in the International City Management Association (ICMA).

Seven members of the advisory board are serving for a second year and five are retiring after completing their terms.

The new board members are Phoenix, Ariz., Mayor Terry Goddard, Trenton, N.J., Mayor Arthur Holland, Atlanta Finance Commissioner Patrick Glisson, Salt Lake County, Utah, Commissioner D. Michael Stewart and Mecklenburg County, N.C., Manager Gerald Fox.

The returning members are Chester Funnye, commissioner of public works, Atlanta; Ronald Jensen, public works director, Phoenix; Ann Klinger, supervisor of Merced County, Calif.; Mel Powell, dean of the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Administration, California State University; Reno, Nev., Mayor Peter Sferrazza; Buford Watson, Lawrence, Kan., city manager; and Costis Toregas, president of Public Technology Inc., Washington, D.C.

Mayors Goddard and Holland follow Pamela Plumb and Richard Berkley as presidents of the NLC and the U.S. Conference of Mayors respectively, and are succeeding those two on the editorial advisory board. Plumb, a city councilor from Portland, Maine, and Berkley, former mayor of Kansas City, Mo., have completed their terms on the board, along with Clyde Fritz, vice president of Johnson & Higgins, and president of The Privatization Council; Daniel Kleman, city manager of Tallahassee Fla.; and John Walsh, retired finance director, Hartford, Conn.

We appreciate the guidance they have provided in the past two years and thank them for their service.

In addition to helping map direction for the magazine, the advisers judge municipal and county Leader of the Year contests and select the Award of Merit winners each year. They also frequently are called upon to comment on issues affecting localities and are invited to submit editorial material.

The new editorial advisory board members follow a tradition of outstanding public service, both to their own communities and on a national level.

Terry Goddard was the recipient of *American City & County's* Municipal Leader of the Year Award in 1988 because of his leadership role locally and nationally. He was elected mayor of Phoenix in 1983 and is serving his third two-year term.

Prior to assuming the presidency of the NLC, Goddard was first vice president and served on its board for two years. He has served on the board of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the State and Local Legal Center, the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, the League of Arizona Cities and Towns and is past chairman of the Maricopa Association of Governments and the Regional Public Transportation Authority. He is active with United Way, the Boy Scouts and the Senior Olympics.

Goddard, the son of a former Arizona governor, is a graduate of Harvard University and Arizona State University College of Law. He was a partner in the law firm of Goddard and Goddard and worked as an Arizona as-

Survey Shows Opposition To Resource Recovery

According to a nationwide survey by the National Solid Wastes Management Association, there are more Americans who oppose the construction of resource recovery facilities than those who favor such plants.

The survey, "Public Attitudes Toward Garbage Disposal," shows that nationally, 47 percent of those surveyed oppose the building of waste-to-energy plants, while 36 percent are in favor and 18 percent don't know.

When asked about any potential threats waste-to-energy facilities pose to the environment, 72 percent listed plant air emissions as a serious cause for concern, while 54 percent cited groundwater pollution from ash.

Regionally, the Northeast and Pacific areas of the nation are the most opposed to waste-to-energy plants, with 49 percent of those surveyed in these regions voicing their opposition. Thirty-one percent of those in the Northeast favor waste-to-energy, while the Pacific area had a 35 percent approval rate.

The lowest regional opposition was recorded in the nation's central area, which posted a 42 percent opposition rate and a 38 percent approval rate.

When given a choice between waste-to-energy and landfills, however, survey results indicate that most people prefer resource recovery technology, largely because they believe landfills may cause groundwater contamination.

Almost one-third of those surveyed believe that federal or state officials should assume responsibility for siting new disposal facilities when local opposition prevents such facilities from being built.

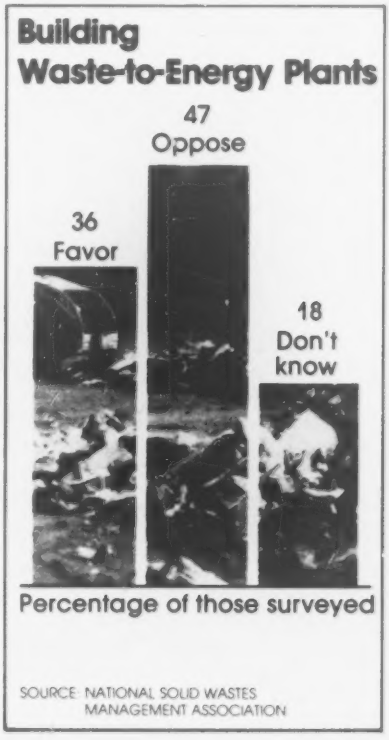
The association's polling was performed by the research firm Cambridge Reports, which specializes in environmental issues. In 1988, three surveys were completed: a telephone poll of 1,500 randomly selected adults in February; telephone inquiries involving 500 opinion leaders in March; and face-to-face interviews with 1,500 Americans in July and August.

Virginia Beach Recycling Newspaper

Virginia Beach, Va., has begun a major newspaper recycling program to make recycling more convenient for city residents.

Recycling bins have been placed at all Virginia Beach public schools and at the municipal center by a private contractor with no charge to the city. The contractor will pay each school $3 per ton of newspapers deposited for recycling. Each bin holds about 10 tons.

For every ton of newspaper recycled, the city will save $68 in operating expenses for the collecting and disposing of old newspapers. The new system also provides more space for residents to place their garbage.



First Polystyrene Plant In U.S. Now in Operation

The first plant in the nation to recycle used polystyrene foam products, such as foodtrays, cups and containers, has begun operation in Leominster, Mass.

The plant initially will recycle foam products and plastic cutlery used in school lunchrooms and industrial and institutional cafeterias. Later, the plant is set to take in foam products from fastfood outlets as well.

Two plastics manufacturers, Genpak Corp., Glen Falls, N.Y., and Mobil Chemical Co., Stamford, Conn., will own the plant, which will be able to recycle 3 million pounds per year of used foam products, or about the amount used by 1,000 schools each year. Much of the foam will be recycled into insulation and industrial packaging.

Broome County, N.Y.: Foster Wheeler Power Systems, Clinton, N.J., has been selected by the county's Solid Waste Agency for final negotiations to build, own and operate a waste-to-energy plant estimated to cost $60 million to $70 million. The facility, to be located in Kirkwood, N.Y., will process 600 tons of municipal refuse a day to generate 18 megawatts of electricity for utility distribution.

St. Lawrence County, N.Y.: The St. Lawrence County Solid Waste Disposal Authority has voted to build a $22 million 250-ton-per-day waste-to-energy facility in Ogdensburg. The authority also will sign a contract with Harbert-Triga, Birmingham, Ala., to build and oprate the facility.

Crestwood, Ill.: Westinghouse Electric Corp., Pittsburgh, has been selected by the Southwest Council of Local Governments to negotiate a full-service contract for a waste-to-energy facility in Crestwood.

Cumberland County, N.C.: The county has ordered two large model HLBA-II/SW300 balers from Mosley Machinery, Waco, Texas, to bale solid waste for the county's landfill. □

Planning A Resource Recovery Program

These points should be kept in mind when developing a resource-recovery proposal:

- **Necessity.** Do not attempt resource recovery unless it really is necessary.
- **Integration.** A well-balanced approach to waste management will include both resource recovery and recycling.
- **The environment.** A project can fail if the sponsor appears indifferent to environmental concerns.
- **Communication.** Community information programs are helpful.
- **Leadership.** The key resource for getting project approval is political leadership.
- **Opponents.** Anticipate and understand the nature of the opposition.
- **Persuasion.** Identify and reach out to those who might support resource recovery. □

Survey Released on Children's Problems

The last five years have seen increases in children's substance abuse, school-related problems, child-care shortages and teen pregnancy in most of the 52 major cities surveyed by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and its affiliate, the U.S. Conference of City Human Services Officials.

The survey of mayors and human service officials sought to document the full range of conditions and issues affecting children in their cities, and to collect uniform data on them. It also discovered information on what individual cities are doing to stem the growth of children's problems.

Traditionally, programs serving children have not been the responsibility of local governments; but the survey indicates that today 94 percent of the cities have an agency concerned with children's issues, and 54 percent have a citizens task force, commission or other public body which oversees children's issues.

The survey, "A Status Report on Children in America's Cities," was released at the 12th Annual City Human Services Meeting by Mayor Ted Mann of Newton, Mass., who chairs the human development committee of the Conference of Mayors. He said the report "contains a critically important message for the next president and the next Congress. Too many children in our cities have no future at all unless we, as a nation, act on the problems they face today."

The survey found that nearly three out of every 10 children lived in poverty in 1986; in comparison, an estimated two out of 10 people of all ages lived in poverty that year. An average of 21 percent of the children, compared to 10 percent of the whole population, receives cash assistance — either Aid To Families with Dependent Children or general assistance.

There are day-care slots available for 37 percent of the children under 6 years old. The average wait for subsidized day care is 38 weeks. In some cities there is no waiting list, but in others the wait is two years.

About 45 percent of the need for licensed child care goes unmet.

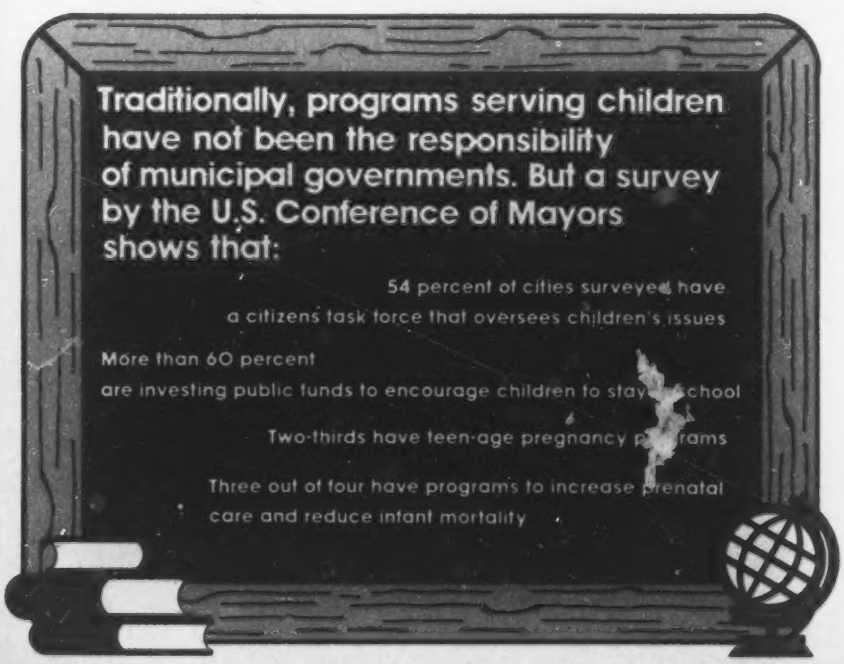
An average of 38 percent of the high school class of 1988 left school between the start of the ninth grade and graduation day; 30 percent left between the start of 10th grade and graduation.

In 1986, 14.6 percent of births were to teen-age mothers, and nearly three out of four of these teens were unmarried. The overall infant mortality rate averaged 12.6 per thousand in 1986; for blacks that year it averaged 18.5 per 1,000.

More than 60 percent of the cities are investing public funds in programs encouraging children to stay in school, while two-thirds of those cities provide funds for programs aimed at preventing teen-age pregnancy or providing help for teen mothers. Nearly three out of four cities fund programs to increase the availability of prenatal care, reduce the number of low birthweight babies or reduce infant mortality.

Kevin Moriarty, director of the San Antonio, Texas, Human Resources Department and president of the human services organization, said his association will "look at this survey as a report on what can be done to respond to the problems our children face. Our hope is that other readers, especially those in Washington, will see it as a report on what remains to be done to secure a decent future for all of this nation's children."

SURVEY SPOTLIGHT


Traditionally, programs serving children have not been the responsibility of municipal governments. But a survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors shows that:
54 percent of cities surveyed have a citizens task force that oversees children's issues
More than 60 percent are investing public funds to encourage children to stay in school
Two-thirds have teen-age pregnancy programs
Three out of four have programs to increase prenatal care and reduce infant mortality

Report Examines City Aid Level

State financial aid to cities, often touted as a response to cutbacks in federal spending, is less than some widely used figures would suggest, according to a new study by the National League of Cities (NLC).

Only about one of every eight dollars spent by the states on local government activities goes to cities to support traditional municipal programs, the report concluded in its analysis of Census Bureau data on state and local government finances. The bulk of state aid to local governments is money for education and welfare assistance, functions which most cities and towns do not administer.

"Sorting through the nearly $127 billion of state aid to local governments in 1986, we found that cities and towns received about $15 billion after taking out allotments for education and welfare, up from just over $8 billion in 1978," says Alan Beals, NLC executive director.

"While not insignificant, the level of state aid to cities comes nowhere close to offsetting the more than $30 billion of federal budget cuts in vital domestic programs during the 1980s," he says.

Local taxes and fees remain the largest component of most local finances, accounting for an average of 61 percent of total local revenues in 1986, the most recent census year. The non-local share coming from the states, while six times greater than federal assistance in 1986, went for functions not carried out by city governments.

The NLC report, "State Aid to Cities

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

All four indexes registered little or no change from previous readings, with the **Municipal Cost Index**, the **Consumer Price Index** and the **Producer Price Index** each rising 0.1 percent from last month. The **Construction Cost Index** remained steady at 118.9.

Among individual commodities, diesel fuel registered the greatest increase, 10.6 percent to 47.1. Gasoline dropped 3.5 percent from January 1988, to 58.7, while LP gas fell 3.6 percent from last month.

— Compiled by Tim Darnell

MOST RECENT MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Previous Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	115.0	0.5	4.8
Apparel	112.6	0.2	3.4
Asphalt Roofing	97.4	−0.4	2.6
Ball Bearings	120.8	2.2	11.3
Coal	94.6	−1.0	−1.9
Communication Devices	103.2	0.3	0.4
Concrete Products	110.1	0.2	0.5
Construction Machinery	113.0	0.6	3.2
Diesel Fuel	47.1	10.6	−23.2
Electric Components	118.3	0.3	2.6
Electric Power	109.2	−3.1	1.0
Floor Coverings	116.6	0.3	4.2
Fuel Oil No. 2	47.5	13.6	−22.4
Foundry Products	111.3	0.2	4.3
Furniture	125.9	0.2	5.0
Gasoline	58.7	4.6	−3.5
Generator Sets	124.0	−0.2	6.0
Glass	110.7	0.3	2.1
Glass Containers	111.9	−0.1	−0.5
Gypsum Products	115.1	1.2	−4.7
Hardware	116.3	0.7	5.5
Heating Equipment	120.7	0.1	3.1
Industrial Chemicals	112.5	0.4	15.3
I.C. Engines	112.3	0	2.6
Iron	82.8	0	0.1
LP Gas	45.9	−3.6	−23.9
Lumber	127.3	−0.4	−2.8
Metal Fabrications	116.9	0	8.4
Mixed Fertilizers	100.4	−5.9	7.6
Motor Vehicle Parts	107.8	0	1.5
Natural Gas	76.8	−2.5	1.5
Office Machines	108.0	0.2	2.3
Paint	124.2	5.3	16.2
Paper	127.5	0.4	11.5
Passenger Cars	116.1	−1.0	0.5
Petroleum	39.2	−0.5	−30.7
Plastics	140.3	0.4	19.5
Plumbing Fixtures	131.8	0.1	8.7
Plywood	103.4	0.5	−2.4
Portland Cement	102.3	−0.1	−0.3
Pumps	111.2	0.7	5.1
Residual Fuel	36.5	−5.9	−30.9
Rubber	109.9	−0.5	3.3
Sand, Gravel	121.0	0	1.9
Sanitary Papers	116.6	−0.8	7.5
Soaps, Detergents	119.2	2.2	7.4
Sporting Goods	106.6	0.4	3.3
Steel Mill Products	113.2	0.5	6.9
Switchgear	114.2	−0.1	3.6
Synthetic Fibers	99.5	0.8	6.6
Tires, Tubes	95.0	0	4.5
Tools, Dies	111.7	0	1.9
Transformers	109.4	0.7	2.2
Transmissions	117.8	0.4	4.7
Trucks	117.2	0	6.3
Valves	116.3	0.7	6.2
Wire, Cable	141.9	7.3	23.6
Wiring Devices	126.2	0.2	4.7

At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year: 114.1 — Previous Month: 116.3 — Most Recent: 116.4

Percent Change By: Month 0.1 Year 2.0

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year: 126.9 — Previous Month: 118.9 — Most Recent: 118.9

Percent Change By: Month 0 Year −6.3

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year: 116.0 — Previous Month: 120.2 — Most Recent: 120.3

Percent Change By: Month 0.1 Year 3.7

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year: 104.2 — Previous Month: 108.2 — Most Recent: 108.3

Percent Change By: Month 0.1 Year 3.9

These figures are calculated on a base year of 1982.

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	698.4	2.3	10.9
Federal Grants	109.4	−1.6	5.1
Durable Purchases	30.0	2.4	6.4
Consumables	48.0	5.0	27.7
Services	444.6	3.4	14.8
Structures	66.4	2.5	2.8
Salaries, Wages	347.8	2.8	12.2
Surplus	56.2	0.1	5.4
Employment	14.547M	0.9	3.9